

## **It Was Raining**

I was taking you  
and your brother  
to school and I  
lost you both.  
You had a raincoat  
but your brother  
didn't. I was  
calling. I couldn't  
see very far.  
It was raining.

Then I saw you  
emerge from behind  
some rocks without  
your raincoat,  
looking dazed.  
You didn't reply  
when I called to you.  
As I approached  
you sank to sit  
on the ground.

## **I wash my eyelids**

twice a day I wash my eyelids  
with cotton buds and diluted  
baby shampoo and before  
I started school my mum met a man  
twice a day I wash my eyelids  
with cotton buds and diluted  
baby shampoo and the man  
was offered a job in a town  
that was far away and twice a day  
I wash my eyelids with cotton buds  
and diluted baby shampoo  
the man took my mum and brother  
to that town and he bought a ute  
twice a day I wash my eyelids  
with cotton buds and diluted  
baby shampoo and there were only  
three seats in that ute and twice a day  
I wash my eyelids with cotton buds  
and diluted baby shampoo  
and an argument occurred because  
of the ute and twice a day I wash  
my eyelids with cotton buds  
and diluted baby shampoo  
and for a while I went to school  
and lived with my dad and twice a day  
I wash my eyelids with cotton buds  
and diluted baby shampoo  
through the window the sky looks darker  
now and if I went for a walk  
I would feel the first drops of rain  
on my hair and cheeks and twice a day  
I wash my eyelids with cotton buds  
and diluted baby shampoo

## **I Purchased Two Donkeys**

I mainly wanted the grown one but I felt bad taking it away from its baby so I took them both.

I kept them in the yard and bought them donkey food from the supermarket but no matter how much

I fed them they were always hungry. They ate everything in the yard and left it bare. After a while

I noticed there was something different about these donkeys. They didn't have any ears. I took them back

to the shop but the salesperson informed me that the company had a no refund policy.

I pointed out that the donkeys were earless and after some discussion it was agreed

that this was unacceptable and that two pairs of donkey ears would be mailed to my address

within five business days. I went home with the donkeys and fed them and waited for the ears to arrive.

## **linen on the oak tree**

from the verandah we watched the women  
decorate the oak tree with rolls of linen  
each of them taking their turn to stand on the ladder  
and poke the linen over the branches  
with a stick  
none of us knew why they were decorating it  
and none of us thought much of what they were doing  
and lying in my bed I remember the women  
under the oak tree with their rolls of linen  
and early in the morning I walk  
from the bedroom to the kitchen  
and boil the kettle and make coffee  
and go to work and buy petrol and bacon  
for my children  
and every night the nervous human activities continue  
in the well-lit houses  
and somewhere in the dark it rises through the roots  
and remains for a time  
in the trunk  
I rip off a piece of bark  
and push my fingers into the sap  
and take each of the women  
one by one  
and rub the sap into their hands  
and onto their faces  
so they can feel the calming effect  
of the inside of a tree  
I pick up a roll of linen  
and tear it to pieces  
so the women can see  
that there is nothing inside the linen  
that it is only useful in hot weather  
as a garment  
that it has no place on an oak tree

**Early In The Morning  
She Called His Name**

She needed a cupboard  
opened and he remembered  
that she couldn't bend  
her torso because of the brace  
but he was still half asleep  
and couldn't recall  
why she was wearing it.  
He felt something then,  
a tenderness that appears  
briefly and usually only  
when someone you love  
is injured or dying.  
He was no longer asleep  
but he kept his eyes closed.  
He wanted to remain  
in the warmth that comes  
when someone needs you,  
the warmth that comes  
when you are only half  
aware of who you are.